The PATH variable sometimes includes the current directory indicator (.)  
so that you can easily run programs in the current directory. This practice  
poses a security risk, though, because a troublemaker can create a program  
with the same name as some other program (such as ls) and trick another  
user into running it by simply leaving it in a directory the victim frequents.  
Even the root user may be victimized this way. For this reason, it’s best to  
omit the current directory from the PATH variable, especially for the superuser.

If it’s really needed for ordinary users, put it at the end of the path.